IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the current claim set with this new set of claims.

1. A method for processing a queue of messages, each message representing at least one request for an update to a database, the method comprising:

   browsing a message;

   extracting from a browsed message an update request; and

   sending a pretend update request to a database management system (DBMS) responsible for the database which is to be updated, the pretend update request comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not execute the update, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when a corresponding real update is requested.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request, and prefetching required data.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating a real update request by destructively getting a message from a queue comprising the update request, the real update request using prefetched data.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein initiating a real update request is performed by a master thread and browsing a message is performed by one or more read ahead threads.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein processing of the master thread is maintained behind the read ahead thread by a predetermined amount.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form and the method further comprises:

retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

associating an identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of the real update request; and

returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request in a predetermined form;

associating the pretend update request with an identifier by the DBMS;

receiving the identifier from the DBMS; and

issuing the real update request by sending the identifier with the update request.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising informing a memory manager that the prefetched data used may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request.

9. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer usable program code for pre-processing at a database management system (DBMS) of update requests to a database controlled by the DBMS, the computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code for receiving an update request at the DBMS;

computer usable program code for receiving an indication at the DBMS indicating that the update request is a pretend update request that directs the DBMS to not execute an update request but instead to prefetch data for the update request;

computer usable program code for translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request; and

computer usable program code for prefetching required data based on the prefetch request.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving a real update request at the DBMS and executing the real update request using previously prefetched data.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form and the method further comprises:

retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

associating an identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of the real update request; and

returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving the identifier with a real update request, and using the predetermined form associated with the identifier in performance of the real update request.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising informing a memory manager that the prefetched data may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request.

14. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer usable program code for processing a queue of messages, each message representing at least one request for an update to a database, the computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code for browsing an unexecuted message;

computer usable program code for extracting an update request from an unexecuted message; and

computer usable program code for translating the update request into a query request to prefetch data for the unexecuted update request.

15. The computer program product of claim 14 further comprising computer usable program code for initiating a real update request by destructively getting a message from a queue comprising the update request, the real update request using prefetched data.

16. The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising computer usable program code wherein initiating a real update request is performed by a master thread and browsing a message is performed by one or more read ahead threads.

17. The computer program product of claim 16 further comprising computer usable program code wherein processing of the master thread is maintained behind the read ahead thread by a predetermined amount.

18. The computer program product of claim 14 further comprising computer usable program code for informing a memory manager that the prefetched data used may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request.

19. A computer implemented method for facilitating database performance by pre-processing update requests to a database management system (DBMS) for a queue of messages, comprising:

executing a computer program product configured to:

receive an update request at the DBMS;

receive an indication at the DBMS indicating that the update request is a pretend update request that directs the DBMS to not execute the update but instead to prefetch data for the update request;

translate the pretend update request into a prefetch request;

prefetch required data based on the prefetch request; and

receiving a real update request at the DBMS; and

executing the real update request using the prefetched data.

20. The computer implemented method of claim 19 further comprising informing a memory manager that the prefetched data may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request.